

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

Claims 1-22 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to because the Examiner is unable to locate the documents cited on page 3, lines 16-18 of the specification. Attached, please find enclosed the two documents cited on page 3, lines 16-18.

All other objections and rejections were addressed in the Reply filed June 9, 2003.

With the above remarks and the amendments and remarks submitted in the Reply filed June 9, 2003, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

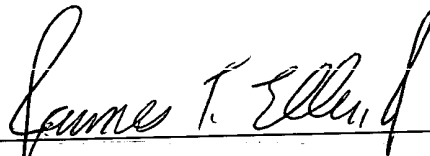
If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicants' representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James T. Eller, Jr. #39,538  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

<sup>85</sup>  
JTE/TBS/crt/jeb

Attachments as indicated.